

**B) Remarks:**

**Response to Rejections:**

1. Claims 6 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by US patent 5,805,144 to Scholder.

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 6:**

Claim 6 has been amended to recite that the mouse button is mechanical. Scholder teaches *“a mouse device having a distinct contrast to the mouse pointing devices of the prior art ... in which switches are provided ... (by depressing the switches) or not (by releasing the switches).”* Scholder teaches the use of a mechanism surface with virtual buttons *replacing prior art buttons* (column 4, lines 59-61). Scholder also discusses at column 7, lines 1-5 that the mechanism surface 220 *replaces the prior art momentary buttons*. Thus, Scholder teaches away from the use of mechanical buttons. These statements by Scholder alone teach that Scholder is not interested in using prior art mechanical type buttons and the teachings of the invention of Scholder do not incorporate use of switches (mechanical buttons). Therefore, it would not have been obvious to have incorporated switches or mechanical buttons in the invention of Scholder because Scholder specifically teaches not using such devices. Scholder does not teach the combination of mechanical mouse buttons with touch pads. Claim 6 was also amended to include that the auxiliary computer mouse functions to point and reposition a screen cursor without physical movement of said auxiliary computer mouse. It is noted that Scholder teaches, “a mouse body adapted to traverse a substantially planar surface” (see column 3, lines 16-21; column 4, lines 12-16; column 5, lines 61-62; column 6, lines 12-19; column 7, lines 14-22; column 9, lines 21-28; column 9, lines 40-47; column 11, lines 12-18; column 12, lines 5-10). It is noted that the mouse of Applicant’s invention is not moved over a surface and does not use a mouse ball. The limitations of claim 6 specify that the mouse functions to point and to reposition a screen cursor *without physical movement* of said mouse system. That is, an auxiliary mouse system of the instant invention is not moved across a surface in order to position a screen

cursor, as the auxiliary mouse systems taught by the cited references and relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant's invention does not require movement of the mouse across a surface in order to point with a screen arrow or to reposition a screen cursor. In fact, using the mouse buttons of the instant invention actually invoke a separate action or mode, such as highlighting.

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 12:**

Claim 12 has been amended to recite that the mouse is an auxiliary mouse. Claim 12 depends directly from claim 6. The rejection of claim 12 should be withdrawn in view of the amendments to claim 6.

**2. Claims 13, 18, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by US patent 6,107,990 to Fleming.**

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 13:**

The rejection of claim 13 should be withdrawn because the Fleming reference to which the Examiner is relying does not disclose an *external* or *auxiliary keyboard* as claimed and defined and described by the specification (Pages 8-10 and 47-56) and drawings (Figures 20-22). Use of the term auxiliary in claim 13 provides a structural limitation to the claimed subject matter, which distinguishes it from a laptop computer. The Fleming reference describes a laptop computer. The laptop computer is self-contained. Thus, the Fleming keyboard and central processing unit are contained within the same housing and the keyboard is not *external* or *auxiliary* to, or separate from, the central processing unit. Claim 13 has been amended to recite "*said keyboard housing comprising at least one mechanical mouse button positioned within said auxiliary keyboard housing.*" Note that the Fleming reference does not provide mechanical mouse buttons within *an auxiliary keyboard housing*, but rather provides buttons for a pointing stick and buttons for a glide point in a laptop computer housing (figure 1) and in a data input device used in conjunction with a laptop computer (figures 2-3). Note that the

laptop computer of Fleming is not *an auxiliary computer keyboard*, which exists as a separate unit from the CPU unit or CPU housing.

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 18:**

Claim 18 depends directly from claim 13. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 18 should be withdrawn because the Fleming reference to which the Examiner is relying is not an *external* or *auxiliary* keyboard as claimed and defined and described by the specification (Pages 8-10 and 47-56) and drawings (Figures 20-22). The Fleming reference describes a laptop computer. The laptop computer is self-contained. Thus, the Fleming keyboard and central processing unit are contained within the same housing and the keyboard is not *external* or *auxiliary* to the central processing unit.

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 19:**

Claim 19 depends directly from claim 13. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 19 should be withdrawn because the Fleming reference to which the Examiner is relying is not an *external* or *auxiliary* computer keyboard as defined and described by the specification and drawings. The Fleming reference describes a laptop computer. The laptop computer is self-contained. Thus, the Fleming keyboard and central processing unit are contained within the same housing and the keyboard is not *external* or *auxiliary* to the central processing unit.

**3. Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Scholder et al. US patent 5,805,144 and Gero US patent 5,741,217.**

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 1:**

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the mouse buttons of the instant invention are mechanical. Additionally, language has been added to define the structural relationship between the mechanical mouse button and the touch pad. Specifically, note that amended claim 1 recites that the touch pad is

integrated into a cavity opening formed in the mechanical mouse button. Gero does not teach a cavity opening. Gero discloses at Column 2, lines 34-35 that "Electrodes 1 are mounted **on** the surface of the mouse..." At column 2, lines 51-53, Gero discloses, "electrodes 1 are physically mounted **on** the exterior surface of the mouse". At Column 3, lines 40-41 Gero teaches that "an electrode may be placed, for example, **on** button 32..." At column 4, lines 36 and 58, "electrode disposed **on** said surface..." Applicant's invention specifically teaches that the touch pad is built and contained *in a cavity opening* of the mechanical touch pad button. Neither of the Gero reference and the Scholder reference teaches these limitations separately or when taken together.

The Examiner has indicated in the rejection that it is obvious to replace the virtual buttons of Scholder with mechanical buttons of Gero. However, Scholder teaches *"a mouse device having a distinct contrast to the mouse pointing devices of the prior art ... in which switches are provided ... (by depressing the switches) or not (by releasing the switches)."* Scholder teaches the use of a mechanism surface with virtual buttons *replacing prior art buttons* (column 4, lines 59-61). Scholder also discusses at column 7, lines 1-5 that the mechanism surface 220 *replaces the prior art momentary buttons*. These statements by Scholder alone teach that Scholder is not interested in using prior art mechanical type buttons and the teachings of the invention of Scholder do not incorporate use of switches (mechanical buttons). Therefore, it would not have been obvious to have incorporated the switches or mechanical buttons of Gero in the invention of Scholder because Scholder specifically teaches not using such devices. Further, combining the two references does not produce Applicant's claimed invention.

Note also that Scholder teaches that the virtual buttons 223 and 224 may be defined by demarcations 221 and 222 **on** the mechanism surface (column 6, lines 37-58; column 9, lines 58-62; column 11, lines 25-27; column 12, lines 18-20). Scholder also discusses at column 7, lines 1-5 that the mechanism surface 220 replaces the prior art momentary buttons. Note also that Gero teaches placement of electrodes **on** the surface of the button 32

(column 3, lines 40-42). Applicant's invention specifically teaches that the touch pad is positioned and contained *in a cavity opening* of the mechanical touch pad button. Neither the Gero reference nor the Scholder reference teaches these limitations separately or when taken together.

Further, it would not have been obvious to a have used the teachings of Scholder in the teachings of Gero because Scholder is opposed to using mechanical buttons, and Gero uses conventional computer mouse buttons. The intention of the Gero reference is to retain the conventional mouse function, but add electrodes *on* the surface of the mouse for contacting the user's skin to measure the user's galvanic skin resistance (GSR) and provide biofeedback for monitoring stress and tension of the user. This functions to measure the user's physiological state. In the Gero reference, *contact with two or more electrodes* on the mouse causes an electrical current to be conducted by the subject's skin and is measured (Abstract). The touch pads of Applicant's invention are not used to close a circuit or measure GSR. Further, Applicant's invention does not require the user to contact two touch pads to perform an operation. The electrodes of Gero simply do not and cannot function as touch pads. The touch pads of Applicant's invention have a specific definition and function to perform specific operations (see specification). Modifying Gero with Scholder does not give Applicant's invention. Further, it would not be obvious, nor would there be motivation or a reason, to place the virtual buttons of Scholder on the mechanical mouse buttons of Gero. The virtual buttons of Scholder apparently perform the same function as the buttons of Gero. No benefit is achieved. Applicant, however, incorporates a touch pad within the body of a mechanical mouse button. Neither reference when taken separately or together suggests what Applicant has claimed. Gero also claims at column 4, lines 30-33, 36-41, and 60-67 "A manually operated computer input device for simultaneously sensing a physiological characteristic of a user and for providing input of data unrelated to the physiological characteristic." These teachings make clear that in Gero the functionality of the electrodes is unrelated to the function of providing input of data in the invention of Gero. In contrast, the touch pads of

Applicant's invention specifically function together with the mechanical mouse buttons to perform certain operations on displayed computer text, such as highlighting text for cutting, pasting, or copying, etc. In fact, certain operations performed by the computer mouse systems of the instant invention require the mechanical mouse button and the touch pad to function together. While the mouse buttons of Gero function as in a standard auxiliary computer mouse, the mechanical mouse buttons of the instant invention function in an entirely different manner. The GSR monitoring of Gero is in no way used to manipulate the displayed computer text on the computer screen. The purpose of the GSR of Gero is to perform a completely unrelated function to that of the computer mouse. Gero teaches that the biofeedback software running on the computer may operate concurrently with other applications software (column 4, lines 4-5). Accordingly, the physiological use of the electrodes in Gero are unrelated to, have no relationship to, and have no function in the manipulation of computer text, positioning the screen cursor, or selecting an operation to be performed on displayed text. The mouse buttons of Gero do not use nor require the presence of the biofeedback electrodes to perform the mouse functions. That is, the mouse buttons and biofeedback electrodes of Gero function separately from each other and perform separate and unrelated operations.

It is further noted that the touch pad of Applicant's invention is positioned in a cavity opening formed in the body of the mechanical mouse button. Neither of the references relied upon teach this limitation.

- 4. Claims 2-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Scholder et al. US patent 5,805,144 and Gero US patent 5,741,217, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US patent 5,268,674 to Howard et al.**

**• Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 2-4:**

The Examiner has indicated that Howard et al. teach that the different button types claimed are well known in the art. However, the limitations of claim 2 are not met by the Howard et al. reference. Specifically, Howard et

al. do not teach a press button as claimed and defined by Applicant's invention. A press button functions differently from a press and lock button. Further, the Howard et al. reference does not overcome the deficiencies of the Scholder et al. and Gero references with regard to claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 2-4 should be withdrawn for the reasons stated above with respect to amended claim 1, as claims 2-4 depend directly from claim 1.

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 5:**

The rejection of claim 5 does not appear to have been addressed by the rejection and the limitations are not met by the Howard et al. reference. Specifically, the Howard et al. reference does not teach the use of a *finger pressing device formed on the button*, as recited in claim 5. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

**5. Claims 7-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Scholder et al. US patent 5,805,144 and US patent 5,268,674 to Howard et al.**

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 7-9:**

The Examiner relies on the teachings of Howard et al. to modify the reference of Scholder et al. However, it is not obvious to replace the virtual buttons of Scholder with mechanical buttons of Howard et al. because Scholder teaches *"a mouse device having a distinct contrast to the mouse pointing devices of the prior art ... in which switches are provided ... (by depressing the switches) or not (by releasing the switches)."* Scholder teaches the use of a mechanism surface with virtual buttons *replacing prior art buttons* (column 4, lines 59-61). Scholder also discusses at column 7, lines 1-5 that the mechanism surface 220 *replaces the prior art momentary buttons*. Thus, Scholder teaches away from the use of mechanical buttons. These statements by Scholder alone teach that Scholder is not interested in using prior art mechanical type buttons and the teachings of the invention of Scholder do not incorporate use of switches (mechanical buttons). Therefore, it would not have been obvious to have incorporated the switches or mechanical buttons of

Howard et al. in the invention of Scholder because Scholder specifically teaches not using such devices. It is unclear how Howard et al. is being used to modify Scholder et al. Further, combining the two references does not produce Applicant's claimed invention.

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 10:**

The Examiner has not met the limitations of claim 10 through the combination of Scholder et al. with Howard et al. Further, it is unclear how Howard et al. in combination with Scholder et al. is being used to meet the limitations of claim 10. Amended claim 10 recites language that has been added to define the structural relationship between the mechanical mouse button and the touch pad. Note that amended claim 10 recites that the touch pad is integrated into a cavity opening formed in the mechanical mouse button. Applicant's invention specifically teaches that said at least one touch pad is built and contained *in a cavity opening* formed in the at least one mechanical mouse button. Neither Scholder nor Howard teaches this limitation.

6. Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Scholder et al. US patent 5,805,144 in view of US patent 5,268,674 to Howard et al and further in view of Gero US patent 5,741,217.

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 10:**

The Examiner states in the rejection that "*claim 10 is rejected on the grounds outlined in the rejection of claim 1.*" However, claim 10 does not depend from claim 1, but rather from claim 6. Claim 6 was rejected solely over Scholder et al. Further, claim 1 was not rejected over the combination of Scholder, Howard, and Gero. Additionally, it is unclear how Howard is used in the rejection, but relied upon in the basis of the rejection. Amended claim 10 recites language that has been added to define the structural relationship between the mechanical mouse button and the touch pad. Note that amended



claim 10 recites that the touch pad is integrated into a cavity opening formed in the mechanical mouse button. Gero discloses at Column 2, lines 34-35 that "Electrodes 1 are mounted **on** the surface of the mouse..." At Column 2, lines 51-53, Gero discloses, "electrodes 1 are physically mounted **on** the exterior surface of the mouse". At Column 3, lines 40-41 Gero teaches that "an electrode may be placed, for example, **on** button 32..." At column 4, lines 36 and 58, "electrode disposed **on** said surface..." Applicant's invention specifically teaches that said at least one touch pad is built and contained **in a cavity opening** formed in the at least one mechanical mouse button. Neither of Scholder, Gero, nor Howard teaches this limitation.

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 11:**

The Examiner indicates that "One ... would have been motivated to place a touch pad **on** the side wall of the mouse because it is a fitting location for a sensor." "It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to place a sensor at sidewall of the mouse ... to receive commands from the user's fingers." First, Gero's invention does not disclose use of a touch pad, but a rather a sensor which has a completely different function from that of Applicant's touch pad as correctly indicated by the Examiner. Second, it is not the intention of Gero to place the sensor on the sidewall to enter commands. The sensors of Gero are passive and do not function to receive or enter commands. The sensors of Gero measure GFR and have no relationship to, or the capability of, manipulating monitor-displayed text. Further, the sensors of Gero are not touch pads and cannot function as touch pads to receive intentional commands from the user to manipulate monitor displayed data or text. Unlike the sensor used in Gero, Applicant's touch pad requires the user to perform active movements of the finger, thumb, or other device over the touch pad surface to manipulate subject matter or text.

Additionally, the sensors of Gero are not formed in a cavity opening in the sidewall mouse housing.

7. Claims 14-16 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of US patent 6,107,990 to Fleming and US patent 5,268,674 to Howard.

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 14-16:**

The Examiner states in the rejection "*The reasoning behind this rejection is the same as the rejection outlined for claims 2-5.*" However, claims 14-16 and 20 do not depend from claims 2-5, but rather from claim 13. Claims 2-5 were rejected over the combination of Scholder et al., Gero, and Howard et al. Claims 14-16 and 20 are rejected over Fleming, III and Howard et al. The basis for each of the rejections is different and each claim has different claim limitations.

The Examiner has indicated that Howard et al. teach that the different button types claimed are well known in the art. However, the limitations of claim 14 are not met by the Howard et al. reference. Specifically, Howard et al. do not teach a press button as claimed and defined by Applicant's invention. A press button functions differently from a press and lock button. Further, the Howard et al. reference does not overcome the deficiencies of the Fleming et al. reference with regard to amended claim 13. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 14-16 should be withdrawn for the reasons stated above with respect to amended claim 13, as claims 14-16 depend directly from claim 13.

- **Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 20:**

It is also noted that Howard et al. do not meet the limitations of claim 20, nor are the limitations addressed by the rejection. Specifically, the Howard et al. reference does not teach the use of a *finger pressing device formed on the button*, as recited in claim 20. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 20 should be withdrawn for the reasons stated above with respect to amended claim 13, as claim 20 depends directly from claim 13.

8. Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleming in view of US patent 5,805,144 to Scholder and further in view of Gero US patent 5,741,217.

• *Specifically regarding the rejection of claim 17:*

The Examiner states in the rejection "*Claim 17 is rejected on the grounds outlined in the rejection of claim 1.*" However, claim 17 does not depend from claim 1, but rather from claim 13. Claim 13 was rejected over Fleming et al. Claim 17 is rejected over the combination of Fleming et al., Scholder et al., and Gero. Claim 1 was rejected over Scholder et al., and Gero. The grounds for these two rejections are different and each independent claim has different claim limitations.

Note that amended claim 17 recites that the touch pad is integrated into a cavity opening formed in the mechanical mouse button. Gero discloses at Column 2, lines 34-35 that "Electrodes 1 are mounted on the surface of the mouse..." At Column 2, lines 51-53, Gero discloses, "electrodes 1 are physically mounted **on** the exterior surface of the mouse". At Column 3, lines 40-41 Gero teaches that "an electrode may be placed, for example, **on** button 32..." At column 4, lines 36 and 58, "electrode disposed **on** said surface..." Applicant's invention specifically teaches that the touch pad is built and contained *in a cavity opening* of the mechanical touch pad button. The walls forming the cavity of the mechanical button are in *a face-to-face relationship* to the walls of the touch pad. Neither of the Gero reference and the Scholder reference teaches these limitations separately or when taken together.

It is not obvious to replace the virtual buttons of Scholder with mechanical buttons of Gero. Scholder teaches "*a mouse device having a distinct contrast to the mouse pointing devices of the prior art ... in which switches are provided ... (by depressing the switches) or not (by releasing the switches).*" Scholder teaches the use of a mechanism surface with virtual buttons *replacing prior art buttons* (column 4, lines 59-61). Scholder also discusses at column 7, lines 1-5 that the mechanism surface 220 *replaces the prior art momentary buttons*. These statements by Scholder alone teach that Scholder is not interested in using prior art mechanical type buttons and the teachings

of the invention of Scholder do not incorporate use of switches (mechanical buttons). Therefore, it would not have been obvious to have incorporated the switches or mechanical buttons of Gero in the invention of Scholder because Scholder specifically teaches not using such devices. Further, combining the two references does not produce Applicant's claimed invention.

Note also that Scholder teaches that the virtual buttons 223 and 224 may be defined by demarcations 221 and 222 *on* the mechanism surface (column 6, lines 37-58; column 9, lines 58-62; column 11, lines 25-27; column 12, lines 18-20). Scholder also discusses at column 7, lines 1-5 that the mechanism surface 220 replaces the prior art momentary buttons. Note also that Gero teaches placement of electrodes *on* the surface of the button 32 (column 3, lines 40-42). Applicant's invention specifically teaches that the touch pad is built and contained *in a cavity opening* of the mechanical touch pad button. Neither the Gero reference nor the Scholder reference teaches these limitations separately or when taken together.

Further, it would not have been obvious to have used the teachings of Scholder in the teachings of Gero and Scholder in the teachings of Fleming because Scholder is opposed to using mechanical buttons, and Gero uses conventional auxiliary computer mouse buttons. The intention of the Gero reference is to retain the conventional mouse function, but add electrodes *on* the surface of the mouse for contacting the user's skin to measure the user's galvanic skin resistance (GSR) and provide biofeedback for monitoring stress and tension of the user. This functions to measure the user's physiological state. In the Gero reference, *contact with two or more electrodes* on the mouse causes an electrical current to be conducted by the subject's skin and is measured (Abstract). The touch pads of Applicant's invention are not used to close a circuit or measure GSR. Further, Applicant's invention does not require the user to contact two touch pads to perform an operation. The electrodes of Gero simply do not and cannot function as touch pads. The touch pads of Applicant's invention have a specific definition and function to perform specific operations (see specification). Modifying Fleming with Gero and Scholder does not give Applicant's invention. Further, it would not have

been obvious, nor would there have been a reason, to place the virtual buttons of Scholder on the mechanical mouse buttons of Gero because the virtual buttons of Scholder apparently perform the same function as the mechanical mouse buttons of Gero. No benefit is achieved. Applicant, however, incorporates a touch pad within the body of a mechanical mouse button. In contrast, Applicant's invention requires the presence of mechanical touch buttons and touch pads to perform the specific operations on displayed computer text. Neither reference when taken separately or together suggests what Applicant has claimed. Gero also claims at column 4, lines 30-33, 36-41, and 60-67 "A manually operated computer input device for simultaneously sensing a physiological characteristic of a user and for providing input of data unrelated to the physiological characteristic." The Gero teachings make clear that the functionality of the electrodes is unrelated to the function of providing input of data in the invention of Gero. In contrast, the touch pads of Applicant's invention specifically function together with the mechanical mouse buttons to perform certain operations on displayed computer text, such as highlighting text for cutting, pasting, or copying, etc. In fact, certain operations performed by the computer mouse systems of the instant invention require the mechanical mouse button and the touch pad to function together. While the mouse buttons of Gero function as in a standard auxiliary computer mouse, the mechanical mouse buttons of the instant invention function in an entirely different manner. The GSR monitoring of Gero is in no way used to manipulate the displayed computer text on the computer screen. The purpose of the GSR of Gero is to perform a completely unrelated function to that of the computer mouse. Gero teaches that the biofeedback software running on the computer may operate concurrently with other applications software (column 4, lines 4-5). Accordingly, the physiological use of the electrodes in Gero are unrelated to, have no relationship to, and have no function in the manipulation of computer text, positioning the screen cursor, or selecting an operation to be performed on displayed text. The mouse buttons of Gero do not use nor require the presence of the biofeedback electrodes to perform the mouse functions. That

is, the mouse buttons and biofeedback electrodes of Gero function separately from each other and perform separate and unrelated operations.

Additionally, Fleming teaches use of a laptop computer while Scholder and Gero teach use of auxiliary mouse systems. None of the mouse systems relied upon can be combined, because each is different from the others. None of the references when taken together or separately suggest Applicant's invention.

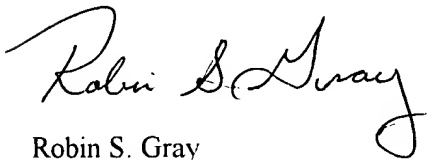
It is noted and repeated here that the touch pad of Applicant's invention is positioned in a cavity opening formed in the body of the mechanical mouse button. None of the references relied upon teach this limitation.

New claim 26 recites that the touch pad functions to point and reposition a screen cursor without physical movement of said mouse system. It is noted that Scholder teaches, "a mouse body adapted to traverse a substantially planar surface" (see column 3, lines 16-21; column 4, lines 12-16; column 5, lines 61-62; column 6, lines 12-19; column 7, lines 14-22; column 9, lines 21-28; column 9, lines 40-47; column 11, lines 12-18; column 12, lines 5-10). Also Gero teaches at column 1, lines 42-61 "A mouse is a pointing device ... gripped by one of the user's hands. As the user moves his hand, the physical motion manipulates an icon on the computer screen ... On the bottom of the casing, a small track ball is mounted which rolls as the user slides the mouse across the flat surface." Gero teaches at column 3, lines 25-30 of retaining the conventional functionality of mouse movement. It is noted that the Howard et al. reference teaches buttons used in conjunction with a mouse or trackball for performing dragging operations. Howard et al. disclose that the mouse housing is moved over a surface, and the rotation of the mouse ball is sensed (column 2, lines 64-66). It is noted that the mouse of Applicant's invention is not moved over a surface and does not use a mouse ball. The limitations of new claim 26 specify that the touch pad functions to point and to reposition a screen cursor *without physical movement* of said mouse system. That is, an auxiliary mouse system of the instant invention is not moved across a surface in order to position a screen cursor, as the auxiliary mouse systems taught by the cited references and relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly,

Applicant's invention does not require movement of the mouse across a surface in order to point with a screen arrow or for clicking a button to reposition a screen cursor. In fact, using the mouse buttons of the instant invention actually invoke a separate action or mode, such as highlighting. Positioning of the screen cursor is achieved through use of the touch pad.

New claims 21-34 have been added. The subject matter of the new claims and the amendments is fully supported by the original disclosure and no new matter is added. Support for the subject matter of the new claims and amendments can be found throughout the Specification, Abstract, and Figures. Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments and/or arguments place the application for patent in condition for allowance and early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



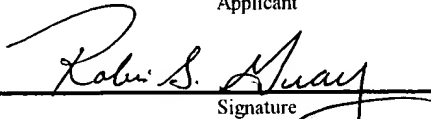
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Applicant



Signature

September 17, 2003

Date of Signature